

# SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

## To Feedback on the Preview Draft Of the 2011 Seattle Solid Waste Plan Revision

This summary lists the notable changes made to *Seattle's 2011 Solid Waste Plan* revision in response to public review. The first draft of the Plan, the August 1, 2011 *Preview Draft*, received extensive public review, as documented in the *Summary of Stakeholder Outreach Feedback* available at Seattle Public Utilities' [Plan website](#). The feedback process is further documented in *Appendix C's Public Involvement Plan* to the *March 2012 Preliminary Draft* of the Solid Waste Plan. Most of the feedback comments addressed municipal solid waste (MSW) recommendations.

Comments on construction and demolition debris (C&D) recommendations were garnered through a parallel process, and documented in the *2011 Stakeholder Outreach and Responsiveness Summary: Proposed Construction and Demolition Recommendations in Seattle's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*, also available at the [Plan website](#).

Comments came from meetings with community groups and other stakeholder groups, letters and other comments emailed to the dedicated Plan email account, a transfer station customer survey, and an on-line survey. The on-line survey turned out to be the response method of choice, yielding the most responses: 593 persons took the survey, with 256 of those submitting 597 comments. Since the public review process amassed more than 600 comments, SPU determined the most practical way to present feedback was to summarize and group them according to the section of the Plan, by respondent groupings, in the documents discussed above. Copies of original comments are available by contacting the Plan's project manager at [spu\\_solidwasteplan@seattle.gov](mailto:spu_solidwasteplan@seattle.gov).

Seattle Public Utilities and the Seattle Solid Waste Advisory Committee reviewed all comments and took them under advisement for the next draft of the Plan, the *Preliminary Draft*. Below are brief descriptions of the notable changes that resulted from the feedback review process, as well as notable editorial improvements. They are organized by Plan chapters and sections, with highlighting on changes to the Plan's recommendations.

## Chapter - Section

### Executive Summary

- Text and charts updated to reflect changes in chapters.
- **Executive Summary - Recommendations Summary:** matrix updated to reflect recommendations changes in chapters

### Chapter I Revising Seattle's Solid Waste Plan

**1.2 and 1.3 Planning History:** Added additional Seattle solid waste planning history; corrected 1st text box to show last bullet previously hidden

**1.3.1 Regulatory and Policy Framework:** Added reference to City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development to section

- 1.3.3 Keeping the Plan Up to Date:** Added more details about Seattle’s process for keeping Seattle’s Plan current

## Chapter 3 Waste Prevention

Some content restructuring for better flow

### 3.2 Planning Issues

- 3.2.4 Product stewardship:** clarified cost internalization and fee discussion

### 3.3 Current Programs and Practices

- 3.3.3 Residential Backyard Food and Yard Waste Composting:** Clarified Local Hazardous Waste Management Program role in funding on-site yard waste programs
- 3.3.4 NWPSC:** Corrected description of Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC) and its members’ roles in state legislation. Corrected references to E-Cycle Washington electronics recycling program
- 3.3.4 Additional Product Studies:** Table 3-4 Clarified source of tonnage estimates. Removed MTBE from product list

### 3.4 Alternatives and Recommendations

- 3.4.1 Electronic Products Reuse, Expansion of Covered Products:** Added recommendations for keeping up electronics disposal standards
- 3.4.3 Residential Backyard Food and Yard Waste Composting:** Added to reasoning for grasscycling recommendation – healthy lawns better storm water retention, reduced irrigation, reducing seasonal overloading of grass clippings (and potential odor problems) at compost facility
- 3.4.4 Product Stewardship:** Restructured recommendations to better layout goals versus recommendations. Added recommendation to support future programs based at least in part on recovery rates compared to existing programs. Added recommendation to emphasize job creation potential.

### 3.5 Measurement

- 3.5.2 Industrial Materials Reuse:** Added reference to IMEX as potential data source
- 3.5.6 Measurement:** Added monitoring city-wise overall waste generation to waste prevention measurement strategies

## Chapter 4 Seattle’s MSW System: Managing Discards

### 4.2 Collection

- 4.2.5 Table 4-3 Collection Customer Satisfaction:** Updated to reflect more recent (2011) survey results
- 4.2.4 Collection Recycling Recommendations:**
  - Added recommendation to increase awareness of other (than regular curbside) existing collection services

- Added recommendation to increase education and outreach to reduce contamination
- Changed recommendation about single-family every other week garbage collection to consider for the future (versus previous recommendation to implement in 2015 in section 4.3.4)

### 4.3 Recycling

**4.3.4 Table 4-11 Status Quo Recycling Rate Projections:** 2010 data updated to actual

**4.3.4 Table 4-13 Recommended Recycling Programs Implementation Schedule:** Removed recommendation to implement single-family every other week garbage (EOW) collection in 2015, changed to consider EOW in the future and moved to section 4.2.4. More clearly flagged programs already underway.

**4.3.4 Table 4-14 Recommended Programs Recycling Rate Projections:** Updated to reflect revised projections of recycling results from changes to recommendations

**4.3.4 Figure 4-9 Recycling Rate Status Quo versus Recommended:** Updated to reflect revised projections of recycling results from changes to recommendations

### 4.5 Processing and Disposal

**4.5.2 Planning Issues:** Added new section Solid Waste Facility Siting to present State of Washington RCW 70.95.165 siting criteria and applicability to Seattle solid waste facility planning

**4.5.3 Recycling Processing:** Clarified current contracting provisions for opt-out and end dates.

**4.5.3 Designation of Recyclable Materials:** Added details on criteria for material selection. Added requirement to report changes to Washington Department of Ecology.

**4.5.3 Yard and Food Waste Composting:** Clarified current contracting provisions for opt-out and end dates. Clarified history of changes regarding accepted materials and currently accepted. Added text about SPU continuing to encourage local compost product procurement for public projects

**4.5.4 Recycling Processing Recommendations:** Added recommendation to consider testing a “dirty” Materials Recovery Facility

**4.5.4 Yard and Food Waste Composting:** Expanded recommendation to support composting capacity development to include pursuing a competitive contracting process for services after the current contract ends

**4.5.4 Yard and Food Waste Composting:** Expanded recommendation to support food packaging changes to include enhancing contamination outreach and enforcement

**4.5.4 Disposal:** Modified second recommendation to “Do not pursue or authorize direct combustion of Mixed MSW. Do not authorize such facilities.”

**4.5.4 Disposal:** Modified third recommendation to “Monitor and consider emerging conversion technologies.”

## Chapter 5 Other Seattle Solid Waste Programs

### 5.1 Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D)

**5.1.2 Planning Issues:** Restructured to include references to Resolution 30990 (*Zero Waste Resolution*) formerly discussed in 5.1.4 Alternatives and Recommendations

**5.1.2 Planning Issues, Figure 5-2 Overlap of MSW and C&D Generation in Seattle in 2007 and 2010:** Substituted 2010 figures instead for 2009 numbers. Corrected 2007 C&D Generation number.

**5.1.2 Planning Issues, Figure 5-3 C&D Generation in Seattle in 2010 All Sources:** Updated to reflect 2010 numbers instead of 2009. Explanatory text also updated.

**5.1.2 Planning Issues, Table 5-1 C&D Generation in Seattle 2007-2010:** Corrected numbers for 2007 and 2008. Explanatory text also updated.

**5.1.2 Planning Issues, Figure 5-5 C&D Recycling Rates without Concrete in 2007-2010:** Updated to include the year 2010.

**5.1.2 Planning Issues, Table 5-2 C&D Recovery Rates by Material in 2010:** 2009 numbers replaced with 2010 numbers.

**5.1.4 Alternatives Development:** Stakeholder involvement process revised and now includes discussion of the feedback process conducted for the Preview Draft of the Plan.

#### 5.1.4 C&D Recommendations

- Restructured for better clarity
- Added detail to Certification recommendation
- Revised bans on metal and cardboard to 2013 from 2012
- Revised ban on clean wood to 2014 from 2013
- Added text explaining bans begin with 1 year of education before enforcement, and that the SPU Director may delay or rescind bans if end markets collapse.
- Revised to make explicit the recommendation to require DPD permit holders to file a recycling report as a condition for their Final Permit.

### 5.3 Clean City Programs

**5.3.2 Planning Issues:** Clarified funding source for clean city programs

**5.3.3 Current Programs and Practices:** Various text edits to improve clarity

### 5.4 Moderate Risk Waste

**5.4.2 Planning Issues:** Clarified history of the Local Hazardous Waste Plan and its updates.

**5.4.3 Current Programs:** Updated text to reflect the city's two MRW collection facilities now accept qualifying materials from CESQGs as well as residents.

**5.4.4 Recommendations:** Revised the first recommendation from "increase service hours" to "provide maximum number of service hours possible" for MRW collection services.

**5.4.4 Recommendations:** Revised second recommendation to drop reference to CESQG pilot and replace with text reflecting CESQG now collected on on-going basis

## Chapter 6 Administration and Financing the Plan

**Financing:** Four figures changed to reflect updates budget, revenue, and customer rates impacts from revised recommendations, principally from removing the recommendation for single-family every other week garbage collection.

- Figure 6-6 Projected SPU Solid Waste O&M Spending
- Figure 6-7 Status Quo and Preferred Scenarios
- Figure 6-8 Average Rates for Status Quo and Preferred Scenarios
- Figure 6-8 Status Quo and Preferred Scenarios Revenue and Rate Projections

## Appendices

**Appendix C - Public Involvement:** Now includes completed Public Involvement Plan and this Responsiveness Summary

**Appendix D - Recycling Potential Assessment (RPA) Model and Environmental Benefits Analysis:**

- Title changed from “Recycling Potential Assessment (RPA) Model”. Merges former Appendix E.
- Added new write-up “Economic Analysis of New Waste Prevention and Recycling Programs” explaining the RPA model, the model for estimating environmental benefits, and the results of environmental benefits modeling.
- Substituted former RPA reports for recommended recycling program package with reports for revised recommended recycling program package

**Appendix E - Recycling Reporting:** Title changed from “Environmental Benefits Analysis”

**Appendix F - State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) documents:** Title changed from “Recycling Businesses”

**Appendix G - Seattle Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Participation:**

- Title changed from “State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) documents”
- Added documentation of SWAC participation

**Appendix H - Resolution of Adoption:** Title changed from “Seattle Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Participation”

**Appendix I:** Deleted. Was “Resolution of Adoption”